



The 12th Edition

Volume 5, Issue 4

Headquarters, Twelfth Air Force Supplement to the *Desert Airman*

Friday, April 11, 2003

News Briefs

Monthly ceremony

Twelfth Air Force's monthly awards and promotion ceremony is **April 30 at 10 a.m. in the Catalina Room at the Officers' Club.**

Honorees need to be in place by 8:30 a.m. For more information, call 12 AF/PA at 8-6053.

Personal Messages

Stars and Stripes is delivering personal e-messages to deployed troops in the Persian Gulf region.

Family members, friends and supporters are able to send personal messages via the "Messages of Support" section of the Stars and Stripes webpage.

Messages can be emailed to 'messages@estripes.com', are limited to 50 words or less and will be printed on a first-come, first-run basis. There is no charge for the service.

Blood Drive

Where: E-Club Ballroom

When: April 23, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Call 917-2820 to schedule your appointment with the Red Cross.

H.A. Easter Egg Hunt

The Family Support Center is holding a Hearts Apart Easter Egg Hunt on April 19 in Bama Park, from 10 a.m. until noon.

The event is for spouses of deployed members. Easter Bunny sacks for the children will be provided.

To sign up, call 228-5690.

Day in the Park

The Child Development Center and Youth Programs need volunteers to assist with the Military Month of the Young Child Day in the Park event.

The event will be held April 26 from 9 a.m. until noon at Bama Park. Please call the 228-4933 or 228-3336 for more information.

HF radio orientation held at 12 AF

By TSgt Rick Tindall

612th Air Communications Squadron

The 612th Air Communications Squadron (ACOMS) Ground Radio personnel held an orientation course for high frequency (HF) radio operation here from March 9-17 for nine personnel from South and Central American air forces who are receiving a radio upgrade.

The seminar covered every aspect of operating radio equipment and how to interface it with a computer for data transfers. ACOMS also provided radio equipment and developed a manual for operations and maintenance.

Gen John Jumper, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, sponsors a mutual cooperation program with 17 Central and South American Air Forces called the System of Cooperation Among the American Air Forces (SICOFAA). The Information and Telecommunications System of the American Air Forces (SITFAA), one of five committees under SICOFAA, began modernizing telecommunications in 1998.

The plan consisted of upgrading the HF radio stations at each participating air force station that is used for official communications. This entailed procuring new equipment to establish an Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) HF network for voice communications and data transfer.

612 ACOMS at Davis-Monthan AFB was given the lead on this project in June 2001 after only four air forces had acquired new systems. ACOMS personnel quickly looked at the air force inventory for systems that could provide this capability and that were compatible with existing systems. Old HF radios were integrated with new components and congressional approval was requested for ownership transfer of the radios.

"The systems work extremely well, email and pictures can be sent at surprising speeds using HF radios with ALE. The radios have earned their reputation for reliable long-range voice communications; data transfer is a new addition to the system," stated SSgt Juan Mendoza, Ground Radio technician.

The air forces from El Salvador, Ecuador, Honduras and Panama were the first ones to receive the orientation. The long hours of the weeklong orientation covered practical and theoretical operation of the URC-119 and ALE, but they also had time to go shopping and enjoy the beautiful views of Tucson. SSgt Daniel Salvestrini, Ground Radio technician, said, "Although the systems may seem old to us, they were very excited to receive the HF upgrade."

A manual was provided to each of the



Photo Courtesy of TSgt Rick Tindall

SSgt. Daniel Salvestrini assists Air Force representatives from Honduras and Ecuador in HF Radio Orientation.

representatives in English and Spanish and the orientation was conducted entirely in Spanish.

Even though the first course was held at Davis-Monthan AFB, remaining countries are looking at establishing times and locations for additional seminars. "For some of us, it was our first trip to the United States, but we were treated with respect and as part of the same Air Force family," said Sub-Official II Alex Sierra Franco of the Honduran Air Force.

Advisors give mobility school training in Ft. Lewis, WA

By MSgt Tim Horn

612th Air Communications Squadron

A team of active duty Air Force Technical Advisors and Air National Guardsmen conducted mobility training primarily for traditional guardsmen assigned to squadrons in the 252nd Combat Communications Group.

The advisors conducted a nine day course in Fort Lewis, Washington. The course feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

MSgt Eligah Moore, the Advisor assigned to the 143 CBCS, summed up the experience: "It was worth all the special effort when the graduation day came around and you could feel how special an event this really was."

"We tried our best to provide a realistic training environment," noted TSgt Fred Hansen, the advisor assigned to the 244 CBCS.

This included using Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System ("MILES") gear and an aggressor team that challenged the students every step of the way.

"We try to work safety into every aspect of the program," explains MSgt Moore, "It starts in the planning process and remains a priority throughout the exercise." Leadership development and team building were additional benefits to the training experience.

Many students commented that the field environment offered



Photo Courtesy of MSgt Tim Horn

Outdoor mobility field training utilizes many of the 252nd Combat Communications Group core competencies.

opportunities for learning that went far beyond the classroom.

Providing a mobility school is just one of the numerous ways that Twelfth Air Force Technical Advisors contribute to their assigned units. Officially, the advisors are members of the

See Mobility, Page 2

Mobility

Continued from Page 1

612th Air Communications Squadron, but are assigned to operating locations throughout California, Oregon and Washington.

Each ANG Combat Communications Squadron that falls under the purview of Twelfth Air Force benefits from a knowledgeable advisor, usually a Master Sergeant with a communications Air Force Specialty Code.

On the individual level, advisors assist their respective units with compliance issues, training resources and technical support. They also work as a coherent team, hosting conferences, providing evaluation support and coordinating training experiences like the mobility school at Ft. Lewis.

According to TSgt Hansen, being an Air Force Technical Advisor "is truly a rewarding job. You get the opportunity to positively impact a unit on many levels."

"I had no idea how much the Guard brings to the overall mission," explains MSgt Moore, "They add unique skill sets and backgrounds as well as tremendous experience. They bring a lot to the table. The whole experience drives home the phrase 'One Team, One Fight.'"

Racquetball Champion from 12 AF

By 1Lt Sarah E.M. Schwennesen
12 AF Public Affairs

For one Davis-Monthan Air Force Base captain, it was a chance to leave a lasting mark on Arizona racquetball. The lasting mark came in the form of a consecutive state championship.

Capt. Thomas J. Fuhrmann from the 612th Combat Plans Squadron won the Arizona State Open Racquetball Championship in 2002 and repeated the feat on March 9, 2003.

"It was a great feeling to win two years in a row. It proved the first year wasn't a fluke." Fuhrmann admits the competition wasn't as tough as last year, but based on his previous achievements the second state title was certainly not a fluke.

Fuhrmann has state championship titles from two other states and three previous regional championships. Last year Capt Fuhrmann culminated his championship titles with his first national singles championship.

Fuhrmann started playing racquetball just before starting college in 1990. He credits his father with introducing him to the game and building the foundation of his racquetball fundamentals.

Fuhrmann took the basics onto the college courts and honed his skills traveling on weekends to tournaments all throughout New York, Pennsylvania, and New England. He credits the top-level

competition for his rapid rise to the Open and professional level.

"The New England region is where I really was introduced to the higher level of racquetball. By the time I graduated college I had started participating in professional events and was holding my own against the top players in the world."

Fuhrmann had the unique opportunity to train with Cliff Swain, the number one racquetball player in the world. Swain is still holds the all time winningest record.

Fuhrmann taped all the workout sessions with a camcorder and used the footage to critique and improve his game. He cites video analysis as one of the quickest ways to improve your game.

Fuhrmann says his racquetball achievements have come sporadically throughout his career based on how much he was able to play. "When I'm able to play a lot of tournaments, my level of play seems to rise to the next tier. For example, Kunsan, Korea, was a great assignment, but there aren't a lot of people standing in line at the courts waiting to play."

"I'm playing really well right now. I won the states again, the regionals are a week away, and if I'm able to make it, the nationals are in late May. I would love to be able to defend my national title, and perhaps earn a spot on the U.S. national team," Fuhrmann added.



The
12th Edition



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SALUTE!

Congratulations to 12th AF warriors who recently were – or soon will be – promoted to the rank indicated and those who were recently awarded medals recognizing their accomplishments!

Promotees

Airman

Phillip Greve



Staff Sergeant

Ricardo Cruz
Jay Johnson



Technical Sergeant

Troy Thacker



Master Sergeant

Brad Higgins
Kenneth Gause
Denise Grotzinger



Chief Master Sergeant

Kenneth Kingsbury
Richard Cain
John Miller



Captain

Jonathan Mason



Major

Jennifer Winslow

Lieutenant Colonel

Donald Summerlin



Quarterly Awards

Airman

SrA Joseph C. Chappell, 612 TOG

Noncommissioned Officer

SSgt Helen M. Adams, 612 ACOMS

Senior Noncommissioned Officer

MSgt Amarilis Reyes-Box, 612 ACOMS

Company Grade Officer

1Lt Celeste Rodriguez, 612 ACOMS

Intermediate Civilian Employee

Mr. Patrick Aldrich, 612 AOG

Senior Civilian Employee

Mr. Richard Prater, 612 TOG

Medal Recipients

Air Force Commendation Medal

TSgt Reginald Magnani (2 OLC)

TSgt Isaac Lewis (2 OLC)

MSgt Keith Miller (3 OLC)

Top of the 12th

Captain Louis Littleton is the Program Manager for the Manta Forward Operating Location (FOL) in Ecuador. He works in the 612 Theater Operations Group, Support Squadron.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities: Captain Littleton oversees all support to the FOL, to facilitate daily counterdrug operations by the US Air Force, US Navy, and US Customs Service which have deployed units operating at FOL Manta.

He organizes cross-functional support within 12 AF and coordinates with ACC's Program Management Squadron to ensure that every facet of Base Operating Support (BOS) is implemented efficiently and effectively.

Captain Littleton has energetically served in the Air Force for almost nine years.

Hometown: Sacramento, CA.

Favorite aspects of 12 AF: The never say die attitude at 12 AF. There is always a way to make something happen.

If you could change one thing about your base, what would it be? Summertime temperatures. I can live with the high 90's, but the 100's are out of control!

What motivates your winning attitude? I always remember that things could always be worse and appreciate that they aren't.



Capt Littleton

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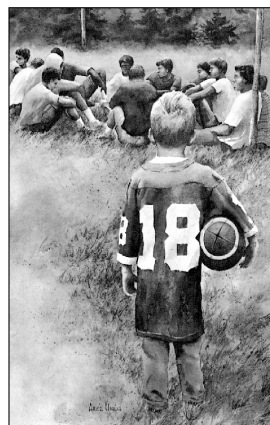
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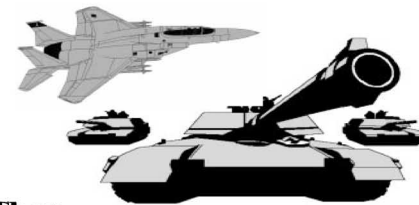
This photo was taken in the 1960's at an FCA Camp in Black Mountain, North Carolina, of four-year-old David Dean who is now a college coach influencing young people as he was influenced.

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